

Ronald M. Winterton proposes the following substitute bill:

Natural Resources Modifications

2025 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Ronald M. Winterton

House Sponsor: Carl R. Albrecht

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill modifies provisions related to hunting and public lands under the Department of Natural Resources.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- defines terms;
- creates the Guide, Outfitter, and Spotter Fund;
- establishes when the use of a guide, outfitter, or spotter is unlawful;
- requires registration of a guide, outfitter, and spotter with the Division of Wildlife Resources (division);
- provides for division rulemaking related to guides, outfitters, and spotters;
- outlines prohibited activities and penalties for violations related to guides, outfitters, and spotters;
- clarifies that the provisions related to guides, outfitters, and spotters do not apply to private land;
- removes a requirement for the Public Lands Policy Coordinating Office (PLPCO) to prepare and submit a constitutional defense plan;
- renames the executive director of PLPCO as the advisor on public lands;
- clarifies that the advisor of PLPCO and director of the Office of Energy Development:
 - are appointed by the governor with the advice and consent of the Senate; and
 - report to the executive director of the Department of Natural Resources, upon the executive director's request;
- repeals a committee required to inventory and map R.S. 2477 rights-of-way;
- repeals regulation related to hunting guide registration by the Division of Professional Licensing; and

29 ▸ makes technical and conforming changes.

30 **Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

31 None

32 **Other Special Clauses:**

33 This bill provides a special effective date.

34 This bill provides a coordination clause.

35 **Utah Code Sections Affected:**

36 AMENDS:

37 **23A-1-101 (Effective 07/01/25)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Chapter 80

38 **23A-5-309 (Effective 07/01/25)**, as renumbered and amended by Laws of Utah 2023,
39 Chapter 103

40 **23A-12-301 (Effective 07/01/25)**, as renumbered and amended by Laws of Utah 2023,
41 Chapter 103

42 **23A-12-302 (Effective 07/01/25)**, as renumbered and amended by Laws of Utah 2023,
43 Chapter 103

44 **23A-12-303 (Effective 07/01/25)**, as renumbered and amended by Laws of Utah 2023,
45 Chapter 103

46 **63C-4a-403 (Effective 05/07/25)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Chapter 81

47 **63L-7-104 (Effective 05/07/25)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2022, Chapter 68

48 **63L-7-105 (Effective 05/07/25)**, as enacted by Laws of Utah 2014, Chapter 323

49 **63L-7-109 (Effective 05/07/25)**, as enacted by Laws of Utah 2014, Chapter 323

50 **63L-11-102 (Effective 05/07/25)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2023, Chapter 16

51 **63L-11-201 (Effective 05/07/25)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2021, Chapter 345
52 and renumbered and amended by Laws of Utah 2021, Chapter 382

53 **63L-11-202 (Effective 05/07/25)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Chapter 36

54 **63L-11-305 (Effective 05/07/25)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2022, Chapter 313

55 **63L-11-402 (Effective 05/07/25)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2023, Chapter 160

56 **63L-11-403 (Effective 05/07/25)**, as renumbered and amended by Laws of Utah 2021,
57 Chapter 382

58 **67-22-2 (Effective 05/07/25)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Chapter 522

59 **79-1-103 (Effective 05/07/25)**, as enacted by Laws of Utah 2021, Chapter 280

60 **79-2-204 (Effective 05/07/25)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Chapter 80

61 **79-6-401 (Effective 05/07/25)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Third Special
62 Session, Chapter 4

63 **79-6-407 (Effective 05/07/25)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Third Special
64 Session, Chapter 4

65 ENACTS:

66 **23A-3-216 (Effective 07/01/25)**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

67 **23A-4-1201 (Effective 07/01/25)**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

68 **23A-4-1202 (Effective 07/01/25)**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

69 **23A-4-1203 (Effective 07/01/25)**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

70 **23A-4-1204 (Effective 07/01/25)**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

71 **23A-4-1205 (Effective 07/01/25)**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

72 REPEALS:

73 **23A-11-204 (Effective 07/01/25)**, as renumbered and amended by Laws of Utah 2023,
74 Chapter 103

75 **58-79-101 (Effective 07/01/25)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2020, Chapters 316,
76 376

77 **58-79-102 (Effective 07/01/25)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2023, Chapter 34

78 **58-79-103 (Effective 07/01/25)**, as enacted by Laws of Utah 2023, Chapter 345

79 **58-79-301 (Effective 07/01/25)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2020, Chapters 316,
80 376

81 **58-79-302 (Effective 07/01/25)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2020, Chapters 316,
82 339 and 376

83 **58-79-303 (Effective 07/01/25)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2020, Chapters 316,
84 376

85 **58-79-304 (Effective 07/01/25)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2020, Chapters 316,
86 376

87 **58-79-401 (Effective 07/01/25)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2023, Chapter 345

88 **58-79-501 (Effective 07/01/25)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2020, Chapters 316,
89 376

90 **58-79-502 (Effective 07/01/25)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2020, Chapters 316,
91 376

92 **63A-16-507 (Effective 05/07/25)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2021, Chapters 162,
93 382 and renumbered and amended by Laws of Utah 2021, Chapter 344

94

95 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

96 Section 1. Section **23A-1-101** is amended to read:

97 **23A-1-101 (Effective 07/01/25). Definitions.**

98 As used in this title:

- 99 (1) "Activity regulated under this title" means an act, attempted act, or activity prohibited or
100 regulated under this title or the rules and proclamations promulgated under this title
101 pertaining to protected wildlife including:
- 102 (a) fishing;
 - 103 (b) hunting;
 - 104 (c) trapping;
 - 105 (d) taking;
 - 106 (e) permitting a dog, falcon, or other domesticated animal to take;
 - 107 (f) transporting;
 - 108 (g) possessing;
 - 109 (h) selling;
 - 110 (i) wasting;
 - 111 (j) importing;
 - 112 (k) exporting;
 - 113 (l) rearing;
 - 114 (m) keeping;
 - 115 (n) using as a commercial venture; and
 - 116 (o) releasing to the wild.
- 117 (2) "Aquaculture facility" means the same as that term is defined in Section 4-37-103.
- 118 (3) "Aquatic animal" means the same as that term is defined in Section 4-37-103.
- 119 (4) "Aquatic wildlife" means species of fish, mollusks, crustaceans, aquatic insects, or
120 amphibians.
- 121 (5) "Bag limit" means the maximum limit, in number or amount, of protected wildlife that
122 one person may legally take during one day.
- 123 (6) "Big game" means species of hoofed protected wildlife.
- 124 (7) "Carcass" means the dead body of an animal or the animal's parts.
- 125 (8) "Certificate of registration" means a paper-based or electronic document issued under
126 this title, or a rule or proclamation of the Wildlife Board granting authority to engage in
127 activities not covered by a license, permit, or tag.
- 128 (9) "Closed season" means the period of time during which the taking of protected wildlife
129 is prohibited.
- 130 (10) "Dedicated hunter program" means a program that provides:

- 131 (a) expanded hunting opportunities;
- 132 (b) opportunities to participate in projects that are beneficial to wildlife; and
- 133 (c) education in hunter ethics and wildlife management principles.
- 134 (11) "Department" means the Department of Natural Resources.
- 135 (12) "Director" means the director of the division appointed under Section 23A-2-202.
- 136 (13) "Division" means the Division of Wildlife Resources.
- 137 (14) "Division of Law Enforcement" means the division within the Department of Natural
- 138 Resources created under Title 79, Chapter 2, Part 7, Division of Law Enforcement.
- 139 (15) Subject to Section 23A-1-103, "domicile" means the place:
- 140 (a) where an individual has a fixed permanent home and principal establishment;
- 141 (b) to which the individual if absent, intends to return and has an actual plan, method,
- 142 and means to return to the individual's domicile within six months;
- 143 (c) in which the individual, and the individual's family voluntarily reside, not for a
- 144 special or temporary purpose, but with the intention of making a permanent home;
- 145 and
- 146 (d) is a place where the individual resides for the majority of the individual's time.
- 147 (16) "Endangered" means wildlife designated as endangered according to Section 3 of the
- 148 federal Endangered Species Act of 1973.
- 149 (17) "Executive director" means the executive director of the Department of Natural
- 150 Resources.
- 151 (18) "Fee fishing facility" means the same as that term is defined in Section 4-37-103.
- 152 (19) "Feral" means an animal that is normally domesticated but has reverted to the wild.
- 153 (20) "Fishing" means to take fish or crayfish by any means.
- 154 (21) "Furbearer" means species of the Bassariscidae, Canidae, Felidae, Mustelidae, and
- 155 Castoridae families, except coyote and cougar.
- 156 (22) "Game" means wildlife normally pursued, caught, or taken by sporting means for
- 157 human use.
- 158 (23) "Guide" means the same as that term is defined in Section 23A-4-1201.
- 159 [~~(23)~~] (24) "Hunting" means to take or pursue a reptile, amphibian, bird, or mammal by any
- 160 means.
- 161 [~~(24) "Hunting guide" means the same as that term is defined in Section 58-79-102.]~~
- 162 (25) "Intimidate or harass" means to physically interfere with or impede, hinder, or
- 163 diminish the efforts of an officer in the performance of the officer's duty.
- 164 (26)(a) "Natural flowing stream" means a topographic low where water collects and

- 165 perennially or intermittently flows with a perceptible current in a channel formed
166 exclusively by forces of nature.
- 167 (b) "Natural flowing stream" includes perennial or intermittent water flows in a:
168 (i) realigned or modified channel that replaces the historic, natural flowing stream
169 channel; and
170 (ii) dredged natural flowing stream channel.
- 171 (c) "Natural flowing stream" does not include a human-made ditch, canal, pipeline, or
172 other water delivery system that diverts and conveys water to an approved place of
173 use pursuant to a certificated water right.
- 174 (27)(a) "Natural lake" means a perennial or intermittent body of water that collects on
175 the surface of the earth exclusively through the forces of nature and without human
176 assistance.
- 177 (b) "Natural lake" does not mean a lake where the surface water sources supplying the
178 body of water originate from groundwater springs no more than 100 yards upstream.
- 179 (28) "Natural resources officer" means the same as that term is defined in Section 79-2-701.
- 180 (29) "Nominating committee" means the Wildlife Board Nominating Committee created in
181 Section 23A-2-302.
- 182 (30) "Nonresident" means a person who does not qualify as a resident.
- 183 (31) "Open season" means the period of time during which protected wildlife may be
184 legally taken.
- 185 (32) "Outfitter" means the same as that term is defined in Section ~~[58-79-102]~~ 23A-4-1201.
- 186 (33) "Pecuniary gain" means the acquisition of money or something of monetary value.
- 187 (34) "Permit" means a paper-based or electronic document that grants authority to engage
188 in specified activities under this title or a rule or proclamation of the Wildlife Board.
- 189 (35) "Person" means an individual, association, partnership, government agency,
190 corporation, or an agent of the individual, association, partnership, government agency,
191 or corporation.
- 192 (36) "Pollute water" means to introduce into waters within the state matter or thermal
193 energy that:
194 (a) exceeds state water quality standards; or
195 (b) could harm protected wildlife.
- 196 (37) "Possession" means actual or constructive possession.
- 197 (38) "Possession limit" means the number of bag limits one individual may legally possess.
- 198 (39)(a) "Private fish pond" means a pond, reservoir, or other body of water, including a

- 199 fish culture system, located on privately owned land where privately owned fish:
- 200 (i) are propagated or kept for a private noncommercial purpose; and
- 201 (ii) may be taken without a fishing license.
- 202 (b) "Private fish pond" does not include:
- 203 (i) an aquaculture facility;
- 204 (ii) a fee fishing facility;
- 205 (iii) a short-term fishing event; or
- 206 (iv) private stocking.
- 207 (40) "Private stocking" means an authorized release of privately owned, live fish in the
- 208 waters of the state not eligible as:
- 209 (a) a private fish pond under Section 23A-9-203; or
- 210 (b) an aquaculture facility or fee fishing facility under Title 4, Chapter 37, Aquaculture
- 211 Act.
- 212 (41) "Private wildlife farm" means an enclosed place where privately owned birds or
- 213 furbearers are propagated or kept and that restricts the birds or furbearers from:
- 214 (a) commingling with wild birds or furbearers; and
- 215 (b) escaping into the wild.
- 216 (42) "Proclamation" means the publication that is:
- 217 (a) used to convey a statute, rule, policy, or pertinent information related to wildlife; and
- 218 (b) issued in accordance with a rule made by the Wildlife Board under this title.
- 219 (43)(a) "Protected aquatic wildlife" means aquatic wildlife except as provided in
- 220 Subsection (43)(b).
- 221 (b) "Protected aquatic wildlife" does not include aquatic insects.
- 222 (44)(a) "Protected wildlife" means wildlife, except as provided in Subsection (44)(b).
- 223 (b) "Protected wildlife" does not include:
- 224 (i) coyote;
- 225 (ii) field mouse;
- 226 (iii) gopher;
- 227 (iv) ground squirrel;
- 228 (v) jack rabbit;
- 229 (vi) muskrat; or
- 230 (vii) raccoon.
- 231 (45) "Regional advisory council" means a council created under Section 23A-2-303.
- 232 (46) "Released to the wild" means to be turned loose from confinement.

- 233 (47)(a) "Reservoir constructed on a natural stream channel" means a body of water
234 collected and stored on the course of a natural flowing stream by impounding the
235 stream through excavation or diking.
- 236 (b) "Reservoir constructed on a natural stream channel" does not mean an impoundment
237 on a natural flowing stream where all surface water sources supplying the
238 impoundment originate from groundwater springs no more than 100 yards upstream.
- 239 (48) Subject to Section 23A-1-103, "resident" means a person who:
- 240 (a) has been domiciled in the state for six consecutive months immediately preceding the
241 purchase of a license; and
- 242 (b) does not claim residency for hunting, fishing, or trapping in another state or country.
- 243 (49) "Sell" means to offer or possess for sale, barter, exchange, or trade, or the act of
244 selling, bartering, exchanging, or trading.
- 245 (50) "Short-term fishing event" means an event when:
- 246 (a) privately acquired fish are held or confined for a period not to exceed 10 days for the
247 purpose of providing fishing or recreational opportunity; and
- 248 (b) no fee is charged as a requirement to fish.
- 249 (51) "Small game" means species of protected wildlife:
- 250 (a) commonly pursued for sporting purposes;
- 251 (b) not classified as big game, aquatic wildlife, or furbearers; and
- 252 (c) excluding turkey, cougar, and bear.
- 253 (52) "Spoiled" means impairment of the flesh of wildlife that renders the flesh unfit for
254 human consumption.
- 255 (53) "Spotlighting" means throwing or casting the rays of a spotlight, headlight, or other
256 artificial light on a highway or in a field, woodland, or forest while having in possession
257 a weapon by which protected wildlife may be killed.
- 258 (54) "Tag" means a card, label, or other paper-based or electronic means of identification
259 used to document harvest of protected wildlife.
- 260 (55) "Take" means to:
- 261 (a) hunt, pursue, harass, catch, capture, possess, gather, angle, seine, trap, or kill
262 protected wildlife; or
- 263 (b) attempt an action referred to in Subsection (55)(a).
- 264 (56) "Threatened" means wildlife designated as threatened pursuant to Section 3 of the
265 federal Endangered Species Act of 1973.
- 266 (57) "Trapping" means taking protected wildlife with a trapping device.

- 267 (58) "Trophy animal" means an animal described as follows:
- 268 (a) deer - a buck with an outside antler measurement of 24 inches or greater;
- 269 (b) elk - a bull with six points on at least one side;
- 270 (c) bighorn, desert, or rocky mountain sheep - a ram with a curl exceeding half curl;
- 271 (d) moose - a bull with at least one antler exceeding five inches in length;
- 272 (e) mountain goat - a male or female;
- 273 (f) pronghorn antelope - a buck with horns exceeding 14 inches; or
- 274 (g) bison - a bull.
- 275 (59) "Upland game" means pheasant, quail, partridge, grouse, ptarmigan, mourning dove,
- 276 band-tailed pigeon, turkey, cottontail rabbit, or snowshoe hare.
- 277 (60) "Waste" means to:
- 278 (a) abandon protected wildlife; or
- 279 (b) allow protected wildlife to spoil or to be used in a manner not normally associated
- 280 with the protected wildlife's beneficial use.
- 281 (61) "Wild" means the natural environment, including a private pond or private property.
- 282 (62) "Wildlife" means:
- 283 (a) crustaceans, including brine shrimp and crayfish;
- 284 (b) mollusks; and
- 285 (c) vertebrate animals living in nature, except feral animals.
- 286 (63) "Wildlife Board" means the board created in Section 23A-2-301.
- 287 (64) "Wildlife parts" means biological material derived from the body or anatomy of
- 288 wildlife, including:
- 289 (a) an antler or horn;
- 290 (b) a hide;
- 291 (c) a bone; or
- 292 (d) meat.
- 293 Section 2. Section **23A-3-216** is enacted to read:
- 294 **23A-3-216 (Effective 07/01/25). Guide, Outfitter, and Spotter Fund.**
- 295 (1) There is created an expendable special revenue fund known as the "Guide, Outfitter, and
- 296 Spotter Fund."
- 297 (2) The Guide, Outfitter, and Spotter Fund shall consist of:
- 298 (a) revenue from fees collected under Section 23A-4-1202;
- 299 (b) money appropriated by the Legislature; and
- 300 (c) interest, dividends, or other income earned on fund money.

301 (3) The division shall use the money in the Guide, Outfitter, and Spotter Fund to administer
302 Chapter 4, Part 12, Guide, Outfitter, and Spotter.

303 Section 3. Section **23A-4-1201** is enacted to read:

304 **Part 12. Guide, Outfitter, and Spotter**

305 **23A-4-1201 (Effective 07/01/25). Definitions.**

306 As used in this part:

- 307 (1) "Compensation" means anything of economic value in excess of \$100 that is paid,
308 loaned, granted, given, donated, or transferred to a guide, outfitter, or spotter for or in
309 consideration of a service, material, or property.
- 310 (2) "Guide" means an individual who offers or provides guide services on public lands for
311 compensation.
- 312 (3) "Guide services" means to guide, lead, or assist an individual in hunting protected
313 wildlife.
- 314 (4)(a) "Hunting" means to locate, pursue, chase, catch, capture, trap, or kill protected
315 wildlife.
- 316 (b) "Hunting" includes fishing.
- 317 (5) "Outfitter" means an individual who offers or provides outfitting or guide services for
318 compensation to another individual for hunting protected wildlife on public lands.
- 319 (6)(a) "Outfitting services" means, for hunting protected wildlife on public lands,
320 providing:
- 321 (i) transportation of people, equipment, supplies, protected wildlife to or from a
322 location;
- 323 (ii) cooking for the participants hunting, including fishing;
- 324 (iii) packing, protecting, or supervising services; or
- 325 (iv) guide services.
- 326 (b) "Outfitting services" does not include an activity undertaken by the division or a
327 division employee, associate, volunteer, contractor, or agent under authority granted
328 in this title.
- 329 (7)(a) "Public lands" means any lands owned by the United States, the state, or a
330 political subdivision or independent entity of the state that are open to the public for
331 purposes of engaging in a wildlife related activity.
- 332 (b) "Public lands" does not include lands owned by the United States, the state, or a
333 political subdivision or independent entity of the state that are included in a
334 cooperative wildlife management unit under Subsection 23A-7-204(5) so long as the

335 guiding and outfitting services furnished by the cooperative wildlife management
 336 unit are limited to hunting species of wildlife specifically authorized by the division
 337 in the unit's management plan.

338 (8) "Retain" or "retained" means a written or oral agreement for the delivery of guide
 339 services or outfitter services between a guide or outfitter and the recipient of those
 340 services.

341 (9) "Spotter" means an individual compensated by a guide or outfitter to locate or monitor
 342 the location of protected wildlife on public land.

343 Section 4. Section **23A-4-1202** is enacted to read:

344 **23A-4-1202 (Effective 07/01/25). Registration as guide, outfitter, or spotter --**
 345 **Rulemaking.**

346 (1) Beginning July 1, 2025, to provide the services of a guide, outfitter, or spotter an
 347 individual is required to annually obtain a certificate of registration with the division
 348 under this part.

349 (2) The division shall issue to an individual who qualifies under this part a certificate to
 350 operate as a:

351 (a) guide;

352 (b) outfitter; or

353 (c) spotter.

354 (3) The division shall maintain a record of each individual who is registered with the
 355 division under this part.

356 (4)(a) To register as a guide, a resident shall:

357 (i) submit an application in a form prescribed by the division, subject to rules of the
 358 Wildlife Board;

359 (ii) have the appropriate hunting or fishing license under this chapter to engage in the
 360 activity for which the guide provides guide services; and

361 (iii) pay an annual registration fee of:

362 (A) \$250 if the resident provides guide services related to the hunting of big game
 363 or bear; or

364 (B) \$175 if the resident only provides guide services related to the hunting,
 365 including fishing, of protected wildlife other than big game or bear.

366 (b) To register as a guide, a nonresident shall:

367 (i) submit an application in a form prescribed by the division, subject to rules of the
 368 Wildlife Board;

369 (ii) have the appropriate hunting or fishing license under this chapter to engage in the
370 activity for which the guide provides guide services; and

371 (iii) pay an annual registration fee of:

372 (A) \$750 if the nonresident provides guide services related to the hunting of big
373 game or bear; or

374 (B) \$500 if the nonresident only provides guide services related to the hunting,
375 including fishing, of protected wildlife other than big game or bear.

376 (5)(a) To register as an outfitter, a resident shall:

377 (i) submit an application in a form prescribed by the division, subject to rules of the
378 Wildlife Board;

379 (ii) have the appropriate hunting or fishing license under this chapter to engage in the
380 activity for which the outfitter provides outfitter services; and

381 (iii) pay an annual registration fee of:

382 (A) \$500 if the resident provides services related to the hunting of big game or
383 bear; or

384 (B) \$350 if the resident only provides services related to the hunting, including
385 fishing, of protected wildlife other than big game or bear.

386 (b) To register as an outfitter, a nonresident shall:

387 (i) submit an application in a form prescribed by the division, subject to rules of the
388 Wildlife Board;

389 (ii) have the appropriate hunting or fishing license under this chapter to engage in the
390 activity for which the outfitter provides outfitter services; and

391 (iii) pay an annual registration fee of:

392 (A) \$1,500 if the nonresident provides services related to the hunting of big game
393 or bear; or

394 (B) \$1,000 if the nonresident only provides services related to the hunting,
395 including fishing, of protected wildlife other than big game or bear.

396 (6)(a) To register as a spotter, a resident shall:

397 (i) submit an application in a form prescribed by the division, subject to rules of the
398 Wildlife Board;

399 (ii) have the appropriate hunting license under this chapter to engage in the activity
400 for which the spotter provides services; and

401 (iii) pay an annual registration fee of \$125.

402 (b) To register as a spotter, a nonresident shall:

- 403 (i) submit an application in a form prescribed by the division, subject to rules of the
 404 Wildlife Board;
- 405 (ii) have the appropriate hunting license under this chapter to engage in the activity
 406 for which the spotter provides services; and
- 407 (iii) pay an annual registration fee of \$375.
- 408 (7)(a) Notwithstanding a fee amount described in Subsections (4), (5), and (6), the
 409 Wildlife Board may increase or decrease the fee amount under this section.
- 410 (b) An adjustment made by the Wildlife Board under Subsection (7)(a) takes effect
 411 when the Legislature adopts the fee schedule in the general session immediately
 412 following the adjustment.
- 413 (8) The division shall deposit fees collected under this section into the Guide, Outfitter, and
 414 Spotter Fund created in Section 23A-3-216.
- 415 (9) A registration automatically expires on the expiration date shown on the registration
 416 unless the registrant renews the registration.
- 417 (10) In accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, the
 418 Wildlife Board may make rules to address:
- 419 (a) the form of an application submitted under this section;
- 420 (b) a prohibited activity under Section 23A-4-1203; or
- 421 (c) an operation of a guide, outfitter, or spotter regulated under Section 23A-4-1204.
- 422 Section 5. Section **23A-4-1203** is enacted to read:
- 423 **23A-4-1203 (Effective 07/01/25). Grounds for denial or revoking of registration**
 424 **-- Prohibited activities.**
- 425 (1) The division shall refuse to register an applicant, refuse to renew, or revoke the
 426 certificate of registration of a registrant during the time period that the division suspends
 427 the applicant's or registrant's privilege to:
- 428 (a) hunt, if the applicant or registrant provides services requiring registration under this
 429 part related to hunting; or
- 430 (b) fish, if the applicant or registrant provides services requiring registration under this
 431 part related to fishing.
- 432 (2) If the division suspends the privilege to hunt or fish under this title of the chief
 433 executive officer of an outfitter under which an applicant or registrant provides guide
 434 services, outfitting services, or spotting services:
- 435 (a) during the time period that the chief executive officer's privilege to hunt is
 436 suspended, the division shall:

- 437 (i) refuse to issue a registration to the applicant for services requiring registration
438 under this part related to hunting; and
- 439 (ii) refuse to renew or shall revoke the registration of the registrant for services
440 requiring registration under this part related to hunting; and
- 441 (b) during the time period that the chief executive officer's privilege to fish is suspended,
442 the division shall:
- 443 (i) refuse to issue a registration to the applicant for services requiring registration
444 under this part related to fishing; and
- 445 (ii) refuse to renew or shall revoke the registration of the registrant for services
446 requiring registration under this part related to fishing.
- 447 (3) An individual may not use the title "guide," "outfitter," or "spotter" or any other title or
448 designation to indicate that the individual is a guide, outfitter, or spotter or acting as a
449 guide, outfitter, or spotter unless the individual is registered as a guide, outfitter, or
450 spotter under this part.
- 451 (4) An individual may not:
- 452 (a) engage in an activity that would place a registrant's client's, prospective client's, or
453 third party's safety at risk, recognizing the inherent risks associated with hunting
454 wildlife and the activity engaged in being above and beyond those inherent risks;
- 455 (b) use false, deceptive, or misleading advertising related to providing services as a
456 guide, outfitter, or spotter;
- 457 (c) misrepresent services, outcomes, facilities, equipment, or fees to a client or
458 prospective client; or
- 459 (d) fail to provide the division with active and current contact information within 30
460 days of any change to the registrant's contact information that was provided to the
461 division during registration or the renewal of registration as a guide, outfitter, or
462 spotter.
- 463 (5)(a) If an individual violates this part, the division may:
- 464 (i) revoke the certificate of registration of the individual; and
- 465 (ii) suspend the individual's privilege to hunt or fish under this title.
- 466 (b) An individual who violates Subsection (3) or (4) is guilty of a class B misdemeanor
467 in accordance with Section 23A-5-301.

468 Section 6. Section **23A-4-1204** is enacted to read:

469 **23A-4-1204 (Effective 07/01/25). Operations of a guide, outfitter, and spotter --**

470 **Limits on retaining guide or outfitter -- Spotter.**

- 471 (1) Except as provided in Subsections (2) and (3), a person may not compensate an
472 individual to provide guide services, outfitting services, or spotting services in
473 connection with or in furtherance of taking protected wildlife on public land.
- 474 (2) A person may compensate a guide or outfitter to help the person locate and take
475 protected wildlife on public land if:
- 476 (a) the guide or outfitter is registered and in good standing under this part;
477 (b) the person has retained the guide or outfitter and is the recipient of the guide services
478 or outfitting services;
479 (c) the person possesses the licenses and permits required to take protected wildlife;
480 (d) in total the number of individuals providing services requiring registration under this
481 part does not exceed:
482 (i) two individuals; or
483 (ii) three individuals, if a guide or outfitter is retained for purposes of taking a moose,
484 bison, bighorn sheep, or mountain goat;
- 485 (e) subject to Subsection (2)(d), the retained guide or outfitter uses no more than two
486 spotters; and
487 (f) the person who retains the guide or outfitter is not simultaneously using another
488 guide or outfitter to assist in taking the same species and sex of protected wildlife.
- 489 (3) A registered guide or registered outfitter in good standing may use a spotter if:
490 (a) the guide or outfitter is retained by the recipient of the guide services or outfitting
491 services to assist the recipient to take protected wildlife on public land; and
492 (b) the guide or outfitter does not use more than the number of spotters allowed under
493 Subsections (2)(d) and (e).
- 494 (4)(a) A person who knowingly retains an individual that is not registered under this part
495 as a guide or outfitter or who knowingly retains a spotter in violation of this section is
496 guilty of a class B misdemeanor, except that, notwithstanding Section 76-3-204, a
497 court may not sentence the person to imprisonment or probation.
- 498 (b) The division may suspend a person's privilege to hunt or fish under this title if the
499 person knowingly retains an individual that is not registered under this part as a guide
500 or outfitter or knowingly retains a spotter in violation of this section.

501 Section 7. Section **23A-4-1205** is enacted to read:

502 **23A-4-1205 (Effective 07/01/25). Private land excluded.**

503 This part does not apply to activities on private land.

504 Section 8. Section **23A-5-309** is amended to read:

505 **23A-5-309 (Effective 07/01/25). Taking, transporting, selling, or purchasing**
506 **protected wildlife illegal except as authorized -- Criminal penalty.**

- 507 (1) Except as provided in this title or a rule, proclamation, or order of the Wildlife Board, a
508 person may not:
- 509 (a) take protected wildlife or wildlife parts;
 - 510 (b) collect, import, possess, transport, propagate, store, donate, transfer, or export
511 protected wildlife or wildlife parts;
 - 512 (c) take, possess, sell, purchase, barter, donate, or trade protected wildlife or wildlife
513 parts without having previously procured the necessary licenses, permits, tags,
514 federal stamps, certificates of registration, authorizations, and receipts required in this
515 title or a rule, proclamation, or order of the Wildlife Board;
 - 516 (d) take protected wildlife with a weapon, ammunition, implement, tool, device, or any
517 part of any of these not specifically authorized in this title or a rule, proclamation, or
518 order of the Wildlife Board;
 - 519 (e) possess while in pursuit of protected wildlife a weapon, ammunition, implement,
520 tool, device, or any part of any of these not specifically authorized in this title or a
521 rule, proclamation, or order of the Wildlife Board;
 - 522 (f) take protected wildlife using a method, means, process, or practice not specifically
523 authorized in this title or a rule, proclamation, or order of the Wildlife Board;
 - 524 (g) take protected wildlife outside the season dates, location boundaries, and daily time
525 frames established in rule, proclamation, or order of the Wildlife Board;
 - 526 (h) take protected wildlife in excess of the bag and possession limits established in rule,
527 proclamation, or order of the Wildlife Board;
 - 528 (i) take protected wildlife in an area closed to hunting, trapping, or fishing by rule,
529 proclamation, or order of the Wildlife Board, or by executive order of the director
530 pursuant to Subsection 23A-2-203(4);
 - 531 (j) practice falconry or capture, possess, or use birds in falconry;
 - 532 (k) take wildlife from an airplane or any other airborne vehicle or device or a motorized
533 terrestrial or aquatic vehicle, including snowmobiles and other recreational vehicles;
 - 534 (l) hold in captivity at any time any live protected wildlife;
 - 535 (m) use or permit a dog or other domestic or trained animal to take protected wildlife;
 - 536 (n) remove, damage, or destroy an occupied nest of protected wildlife;
 - 537 (o) release captured or captive wildlife into the wild;
 - 538 (p) use spotlighting to take protected wildlife;

- 539 (q) employ or use a means of concealment or camouflage while taking protected wildlife
 540 which is prohibited in this title or a rule, proclamation, or order of the Wildlife Board;
- 541 (r) possess or use bait or other attractant to take protected wildlife which is prohibited in
 542 this title or a rule, proclamation, or order of the Wildlife Board;
- 543 (s) use a decoy or recorded or electronically amplified call which is prohibited in this
 544 title or a rule, proclamation, or order of the Wildlife Board to take protected wildlife;
- 545 (t) commercially harvest protected wildlife, including brine shrimp and brine shrimp
 546 eggs;
- 547 (u) use protected wildlife for commercial purposes or financial gain as prohibited by
 548 Section 23A-5-304;
- 549 (v) enter, establish, or hold a contest or tournament involving the taking of protected
 550 wildlife;
- 551 (w) operate or participate in a commercial hunting area as described in Section
 552 23A-12-202;~~[or]~~
- 553 (x) operate or participate in a cooperative wildlife management unit as defined in
 554 Section 23A-7-101[-] ; or
- 555 (y)(i) operate or participate in guide, outfitter, or spotter services or activities in
 556 violation of Chapter 4, Part 12, Guide, Outfitter, and Spotter; or
- 557 (ii) knowingly retain a guide, outfitter, or spotter in violation of Chapter 4, Part 12,
 558 Guide, Outfitter, and Spotter.
- 559 (2) Possession of protected wildlife without a valid license, permit, tag, certificate of
 560 registration, bill of sale, or invoice is prima facie evidence that the protected wildlife
 561 was illegally taken and is illegally held in possession.
- 562 (3) A person is subject to the penalty under Section 23A-5-301 if the person:
- 563 (a) violates Subsection (1); and
- 564 (b) does so with criminal negligence as defined in Subsection 76-2-103(4).
- 565 Section 9. Section **23A-12-301** is amended to read:
- 566 **23A-12-301 (Effective 07/01/25). Definitions.**
- 567 (1) The definitions in Section [~~58-79-102~~] 23A-4-1201 apply to this part.
- 568 (2)(a) As used in this part, "waterfowl management area" means real property owned or
 569 managed by the division that is:
- 570 (i) primarily used for the conservation, production, or recreational harvest of ducks,
 571 mergansers, geese, brant, swans, and other waterfowl; and
- 572 (ii) designated as a waterfowl management area by the Wildlife Board in accordance

573 with Section 23A-12-303.

574 (b) "Waterfowl management area" includes the Willard Spur Waterfowl Management
575 Area and the Harold Crane Waterfowl Management Area described in Section
576 23A-6-403.

577 Section 10. Section **23A-12-302** is amended to read:

578 **23A-12-302 (Effective 07/01/25). Prohibited activities.**

579 (1) A commercial [~~hunting~~]guide or outfitter may not use a waterfowl management area
580 for any of the following, unless the commercial[~~hunting~~] guide or outfitter has an
581 annual permit, issued by the Wildlife Board pursuant to this part, for the use:

582 (a) [~~hunting~~]guide services or outfitter services; or

583 (b) transportation of an individual to another area for the purpose of providing [~~hunting~~]
584 guide services or outfitter services.

585 (2) An individual may not construct a permanent blind or other permanent structure that is
586 used for hunting within the boundaries of a waterfowl management area.

587 Section 11. Section **23A-12-303** is amended to read:

588 **23A-12-303 (Effective 07/01/25). Rulemaking -- Notice.**

589 (1) In accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, the
590 Wildlife Board shall make rules:

591 (a) designating and establishing the boundaries of a waterfowl management area;

592 (b) governing the management and use of a waterfowl management area in accordance
593 with this part; and

594 (c) to create an annual permit process by which commercial [~~hunting~~]guides and
595 outfitters may use waterfowl management areas in accordance with this part.

596 (2) The annual permit process described in Subsection (1)(c) shall:

597 (a) preserve the opportunity for non-guided hunters to use waterfowl management areas;
598 and

599 (b) require a permit holder to comply with safety standards established by the Wildlife
600 Board.

601 (3) The division shall provide an annual report to the Natural Resources, Agriculture, and
602 Environment Interim Committee regarding any rules made or changed in accordance
603 with this part.

604 (4) The Wildlife Board shall publish a map of the boundaries of each waterfowl
605 management area.

606 (5) Nothing in this part modifies or limits:

- 607 (a) Section 23A-6-403, or the discretion of the division to manage waterfowl
 608 management areas for other beneficial purposes, including for the benefit of the
 609 public, shorebirds, waterfowl, and other protected wildlife; or
 610 (b) the authority of the division, the director, or the Wildlife Board under Chapter 6,
 611 Lands and Waters for Wildlife Purposes.

612 Section 12. Section **63C-4a-403** is amended to read:

613 **63C-4a-403 (Effective 05/07/25). Due process and adjudication for closure of a**
 614 **road -- Plans for R.S. 2477 rights.**

- 615 (1)(a) Any road on or across federally managed property and that is found on a county's
 616 class B and class D road map or a county travel plan is presumed to be a public road
 617 open for public use unless the road has been closed through an appropriate action of
 618 the state or federal government properly adjudicated and with due process.
 619 (b) If the federal government attempts to close a road on a county's class B and class D
 620 road map or county travel plan without proper adjudication and due process:
 621 (i) the closure is invalid and has no effect; and
 622 (ii) the state and county may disregard the alleged closure.
 623 (c) In an adjudication to determine ownership of a disputed road that is included in a
 624 county travel plan, including an R.S. 2477 claim, the federal government has the
 625 burden of proof to show that the disputed road is not a public road and warrants
 626 closure.
- 627 (2) The council may approve an R.S. 2477 plan if the R.S. 2477 plan:
 628 (a) provides for a good faith, cooperative effort between the state and each participating
 629 county;
 630 (b) allows a county to formally agree to participate in the R.S. 2477 plan by adopting a
 631 resolution;
 632 (c) provides that the state and a participating county are equal partners in determining
 633 litigation strategy and the expenditure of resources with respect to that county's rights
 634 under R.S. 2477; and
 635 (d) provides a process for resolving any disagreement between the state and a
 636 participating county about litigation strategy or resource expenditure that includes the
 637 following requirements:
 638 (i) the governor or the governor's designee and a representative of the Utah
 639 Association of Counties shall first attempt to resolve the disagreement;
 640 (ii) if the county and the state continue to disagree, the county, the governor, and the

641 Utah Association of Counties shall present their recommendations to the council
642 for a final decision about the strategy or expenditure in question; and

643 (iii) the county may pursue a strategy or make an expenditure contrary to the final
644 decision of the council only if the county does not claim resources provided to
645 fund the R.S. 2477 plan.

646 (3) The council shall ensure that the R.S. 2477 plan contains:

647 (a) provisions identifying which expenditure types require approval of the R.S. 2477
648 plan committee and which expenditure types may be made without the R.S. 2477
649 plan committee approval;

650 (b) provisions requiring that financial statements be provided to members of the R.S.
651 2477 plan committee and members of the council, and the frequency with which
652 those financial statements must be provided;

653 (c) provisions identifying those decisions or types of decisions that may be made by the
654 R.S. 2477 plan committee and those decisions or types of decisions that must be
655 referred to the council for decision; and

656 (d) procedures to assert claims and respond to attempted closures as described in
657 Subsection (1).

658 [~~(4)(a) The Public Lands Policy Coordinating Office, in consultation with the
659 committee, the Office of the Attorney General and the School and Institutional Trust
660 Lands, shall prepare and submit a constitutional defense plan to the council for the
661 council's approval.~~]

662 [~~(b) The constitutional defense plan shall contain proposed action and expenditure for:~~]

663 [~~(i) the council's or the commission's duties; or~~]

664 [~~(ii) an action filed in accordance with Section 67-5-29.~~]

665 [~~(5)~~] (4) The council shall:

666 (a) review expenditures, at least [~~quarterly~~] annually, made to further a plan approved
667 under this section;

668 (b) approve an update to a plan under this section at least annually, or more often, if
669 necessary; and

670 (c) [~~jointly, with~~] ensure that the Public Lands Policy Coordinating Office[~~,~~]:

671 (i) [~~present~~] presents a R.S. 2477 plan approved under this section, with any updates,
672 to[~~:~~]

673 [~~(i) the Legislature's~~] the Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Interim

674 Committee [~~by~~] on or before July 1 of each calendar year[~~, after providing the R.S.~~]

675 ~~2477 plan to the committee at least seven days before the presentation]; and~~
 676 (ii) provides a hard copy or electronic copy of the R.S. 2477 plan approved under this
 677 section, with any updates to the plan, to:
 678 (A) the commission[~~, which may be by mail~~]; and
 679 [(iii)] (B) the president of the Senate and the speaker of the House of
 680 Representatives[~~, which may be by mail~~].

681 Section 13. Section **63L-7-104** is amended to read:

682 **63L-7-104 (Effective 05/07/25). Identification of a potential wilderness area.**

683 (1)(a) Subject to Subsection (1)(b), the ~~[director]~~ advisor of PLPCO, within one year of
 684 the acquisition date, shall identify within a parcel of acquired land any conservation
 685 areas.

686 (b) Before identifying a parcel of land as a conservation area, the ~~[director]~~ advisor of
 687 PLPCO shall:

688 (i) inform the School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration that a parcel is
 689 being considered for designation as a conservation area; and

690 (ii) provide the School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration with the
 691 opportunity to trade out land owned by the School and Institutional Trust Lands
 692 Administration for the parcel in question subject to reaching an exchange
 693 agreement with the agency that manages the parcel.

694 (2) The ~~[director]~~ advisor of PLPCO shall:

695 (a) file a map and legal description of each identified conservation area with the
 696 governor, the Senate, and the House of Representatives;

697 (b) maintain, and make available to the public, records pertaining to identified
 698 conservation areas, including:

699 (i) maps;

700 (ii) legal descriptions;

701 (iii) copies of proposed regulations governing the conservation area; and

702 (iv) copies of public notices of, and reports submitted to the Legislature, regarding
 703 pending additions, eliminations, or modifications to a conservation area; and

704 (c) within five years of the date of acquisition:

705 (i) review each identified conservation area for its suitability to be classified as a
 706 protected wilderness area; and

707 (ii) report the findings under Subsection (2)(c)(i) to the governor.

708 (3) The records described in Subsection (2)(b) shall be available for inspection at:

- 709 (a) the PLPCO office;
- 710 (b) the main office of DNR;
- 711 (c) a regional office of the Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands for any record that
- 712 deals with an identified conservation area in that region; and
- 713 (d) the Division of State Parks or the Division of Outdoor Recreation.

714 (4) A conservation area may be designated as a protected wilderness area as described in

715 Section 63L-7-105.

716 (5) A conservation area identified under Subsection (1) shall be managed by DNR, in

717 coordination with the county government having jurisdiction over the area, without the

718 conservation area being designated as a protected wilderness area unless otherwise

719 provided by the Legislature.

720 Section 14. Section **63L-7-105** is amended to read:

721 **63L-7-105 (Effective 05/07/25). Report to the governor -- Governor's report to**

722 **the Legislature -- Designation of a protected wilderness area -- Modification of a**

723 **protected wilderness area -- Rulemaking authority.**

724 (1) Within five years of the acquisition date of a parcel of land, the [~~director~~] advisor of

725 PLPCO shall:

- 726 (a) review all areas identified as conservation areas under Section 63L-7-104; and
- 727 (b) subject to Subsection (3), submit a report and recommendation to the governor on
- 728 the suitability of a conservation area for designation as a protected wilderness area.

729 (2) Before making a recommendation, the [~~director~~] advisor of PLPCO shall:

- 730 (a) give notice of the proposed recommendation in a newspaper having general
- 731 circulation in the vicinity of the affected land;
- 732 (b) hold a public hearing at a location convenient to citizens who live in the affected
- 733 area; and
- 734 (c) at least 30 days before the date of the hearing described in Subsection (2)(b), invite
- 735 local authorities to submit their opinions on the proposed action:
- 736 (i) at the hearing; or
- 737 (ii) to the [~~director~~] advisor of PLPCO, in writing, no later than 30 days after the day
- 738 on which the hearing is held.

739 (3) Any opinions submitted to the [~~director~~] advisor of PLPCO shall be included with any

740 recommendations to the governor under Subsection (2) and the Legislature under

741 Subsection (5).

742 (4) The governor shall, after receiving the reports described in Subsection (1)(b):

- 743 (a) formulate a recommendation on which conservation areas to designate as protected
744 wilderness areas; and
- 745 (b) advise the speaker of the House of Representatives and the president of the Senate of
746 the governor's recommendation.
- 747 (5) An area shall be designated as a protected wilderness area upon a concurrent resolution
748 of the Legislature, the governor concurring therein, including:
- 749 (a) the legal description of the proposed protected wilderness area; and
750 (b) any special conditions that shall be placed upon the protected wilderness area.
- 751 (6) Any modification or adjustment to the boundaries of a protected wilderness area shall
752 be:
- 753 (a) recommended by the [~~director~~] advisor of PLPCO after public notice of, and hearing
754 on, the proposal, as described in Subsections (1) and (2); and
755 (b) made official as described in Subsections (4) and (5).
- 756 (7) DNR shall make rules governing the protection of a protected wilderness area.

757 Section 15. Section **63L-7-109** is amended to read:

758 **63L-7-109 (Effective 05/07/25). Annual reports.**

- 759 (1) The [~~director~~] advisor of PLPCO shall report to the governor, for transmission to the
760 Legislature, on:
- 761 (a) the status of the Utah wilderness preservation system;
762 (b) regulations in effect; and
763 (c) other pertinent information.
- 764 (2) The [~~director~~] advisor of PLPCO shall report any recommendations for future action to
765 the Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Interim Committee by November
766 30 of each year.

767 Section 16. Section **63L-11-102** is amended to read:

768 **63L-11-102 (Effective 05/07/25). Definitions.**

769 As used in this chapter:

- 770 (1) "Coordinating committee" means the committee created in Section 63L-11-401.
- 771 (2) "Executive director" means the [~~public lands policy~~] executive director of the
772 Department of Natural Resources appointed under Section [~~63L-11-201~~] 79-2-202.
- 773 (3) "Office" means the Public Lands Policy Coordinating Office created in Section
774 63L-11-201.
- 775 (4) "Political subdivision" means:
- 776 (a) a county, municipality, special district, special service district, school district, or

777 interlocal entity, as defined in Section 11-13-103; or

778 (b) an administrative subunit of an entity listed in Subsection (4)(a).

779 (5) "Advisor" means the advisor of the office appointed under Section 63L-11-201.

780 Section 17. Section **63L-11-201** is amended to read:

781 **63L-11-201 (Effective 05/07/25). Public Lands Policy Coordinating Office --**
 782 **Advisor on public lands -- Appointment -- Qualifications -- Compensation.**

783 (1)(a) There is created the Public Lands Policy Coordinating Office within the

784 Department of Natural Resources~~[the Public Lands Policy Coordinating Office to be~~
 785 ~~administered by an executive director]~~.

786 (b) The advisor on public lands is the executive and administrative head of the Public
 787 Lands Policy Coordinating Office.

788 (2)(a) The ~~[executive director shall be appointed by the governor]~~ governor shall appoint
 789 the advisor with the advice and consent of the Senate~~[and shall serve at the pleasure~~
 790 ~~of the governor]~~.

791 (b) The advisor shall:

792 (i) serve at the pleasure of the governor; and

793 (ii) report to the executive director on matters concerning the office as the executive
 794 director may require.

795 (3) The ~~[executive director]~~ advisor shall have demonstrated the necessary administrative
 796 and professional ability through education and experience to efficiently and effectively
 797 manage the office's affairs.

798 (4)(a) The ~~[executive director]~~ advisor and employees of the office shall receive
 799 compensation as provided in Title 63A, Chapter 17, Utah State Personnel
 800 Management Act.

801 (b) The office space for the ~~[executive director]~~ advisor and employees of the office shall
 802 be in a building where the Department of Natural Resources is located.

803 Section 18. Section **63L-11-202** is amended to read:

804 **63L-11-202 (Effective 05/07/25). Powers and duties of the office and advisor on**
 805 **public lands.**

806 (1) The office shall:

807 (a) make a report to the Constitutional Defense Council created under Section
 808 63C-4a-202 concerning R.S. 2477 rights and other public lands issues under Title
 809 63C, Chapter 4a, Constitutional and Federalism Defense Act;

810 (b) provide staff assistance to the Constitutional Defense Council created under Section

- 811 63C-4a-202 for meetings of the council;
- 812 ~~[(e)(i) prepare and submit a constitutional defense plan under Section 63C-4a-403;~~
- 813 ~~and]~~
- 814 ~~[(ii) execute any action assigned in a constitutional defense plan;]~~
- 815 (c) for a R.S. 2477 plan approved under Section 63C-4a-403:
- 816 (i) present the plan, with any updates to the plan, to the Natural Resources,
- 817 Agriculture, and Environment Interim Committee on or before July 1 of each
- 818 calendar year; and
- 819 (ii) provide a hard copy or electronic copy of the plan, with any updates to the plan,
- 820 to:
- 821 (A) the Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Interim Committee no
- 822 later than seven days before the day of the presentation described in Subsection
- 823 (1)(c)(i);
- 824 (B) the Federalism Commission created in Section 63C-4a-302; and
- 825 (C) the president of the Senate and the speaker of the House of Representatives;
- 826 (d) develop public lands policies by:
- 827 (i) developing cooperative contracts and agreements between the state, political
- 828 subdivisions, and agencies of the federal government for involvement in the
- 829 development of public lands policies;
- 830 (ii) producing research, documents, maps, studies, analysis, or other information that
- 831 supports the state's participation in the development of public lands policy;
- 832 (iii) preparing comments to ensure that the positions of the state and political
- 833 subdivisions are considered in the development of public lands policy; and
- 834 (iv) partnering with state agencies and political subdivisions in an effort to:
- 835 (A) prepare coordinated public lands policies;
- 836 (B) develop consistency reviews and responses to public lands policies;
- 837 (C) develop management plans that relate to public lands policies; and
- 838 (D) develop and maintain a statewide land use plan that is based on cooperation
- 839 and in conjunction with political subdivisions;
- 840 (e) facilitate and coordinate the exchange of information, comments, and
- 841 recommendations on public lands policies between and among:
- 842 (i) state agencies;
- 843 (ii) political subdivisions;
- 844 (iii) the Office of Rural Development created under Section 63N-4-102;

- 845 (iv) the coordinating committee;
- 846 (v) School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration created under Section
847 53C-1-201; and
- 848 [~~(vi) the committee created under Section 63A-16-507 to award grants to counties to~~
849 ~~inventory and map R.S. 2477 rights-of-way, associated structures, and other~~
850 ~~features; and]~~
- 851 [(~~vii~~)] (vi) the Constitutional Defense Council created under Section 63C-4a-202;
- 852 (f) perform the duties established in Title 9, Chapter 8a, Part 3, Antiquities, and Title 9,
853 Chapter 8a, Part 4, Historic Sites;
- 854 (g) consistent with other statutory duties, encourage agencies to responsibly preserve
855 archaeological resources;
- 856 (h) maintain information concerning grants made under Subsection (1)(j), if available;
- 857 (i) report annually, or more often if necessary or requested, concerning the office's
858 activities and expenditures to:
- 859 (i) the Constitutional Defense Council created under Section 63C-4a-202; and
860 (ii) the Legislature's Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Interim
861 Committee jointly with the Constitutional Defense Council;
- 862 (j) make grants of up to 16% of the office's total annual appropriations from the
863 Constitutional Defense Restricted Account to a county or statewide association of
864 counties to be used by the county or association of counties for public lands matters if
865 the executive director, with the advice of the Constitutional Defense Council,
866 determines that the action provides a state benefit;
- 867 (k) conduct the public lands transfer study and economic analysis required by Section
868 63L-11-304; and
- 869 (l) fulfill the duties described in Section 63L-10-103.
- 870 (2) The [~~executive director~~] advisor shall comply with Subsection 63C-4a-203(8) before
871 submitting a comment to a federal agency, if the governor would be subject to
872 Subsection 63C-4a-203(8) in submitting the comment.
- 873 (3) The office may enter into an agreement with another state agency to provide
874 information and services related to:
- 875 (a) the duties authorized by Title 72, Chapter 3, Highway Jurisdiction and Classification
876 Act;
- 877 (b) legal actions concerning Title 72, Chapter 3, Highway Jurisdiction and Classification
878 Act, or R.S. 2477 matters; or

879 (c) any other matter within the office's responsibility.

880 (4) In fulfilling the duties under this part, the office shall consult, as necessary, with:

881 (a) the Department of Natural Resources;

882 (b) the Department of Agriculture and Food;

883 (c) the Department of Environmental Quality;

884 (d) other applicable state agencies;

885 (e) political subdivisions of the state;

886 (f) federal land management agencies; and

887 (g) elected officials.

888 Section 19. Section **63L-11-305** is amended to read:

889 **63L-11-305 (Effective 05/07/25). Facilitating the acquisition of federal land.**

890 (1) As used in this section:

891 (a) "Federal land" means land that the secretary is authorized to dispose of under the
892 federal land disposal law.

893 (b) "Federal land disposal law" means the Recreation and Public Purposes Act, 43
894 U.S.C. Sec. 869 et seq.

895 (c) "Government entity" means any state or local government entity allowed to submit a
896 land application under the federal land disposal law.

897 (d) "Land application" means an application under the federal land disposal law
898 requesting the secretary to sell or lease federal land.

899 (e) "Land application process" means the actions involved in the process of submitting
900 and obtaining a final decision on a land application.

901 (f) "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior of the United States.

902 (2) The office shall:

903 (a) develop expertise:

904 (i) in the land application process; and

905 (ii) concerning the factors that tend to increase the chances that a land application
906 will result in the secretary selling or leasing federal land as requested in the land
907 application;

908 (b) work to educate government entities concerning:

909 (i) the availability of federal land pursuant to the federal land disposal law; and

910 (ii) the land application process;

911 (c) advise and consult with a government entity that requests assistance from the office
912 to formulate and submit a land application and to pursue a decision on the land

- 913 application;
- 914 (d) advise and consult with a government entity that requests assistance from the office
915 to identify and quantify the amount of any funds needed to provide the public use
916 described in a land application;
- 917 (e) adopt a list of factors to be considered in determining the degree to which a land
918 application or potential land application is in the public interest;
- 919 (f) recommend a prioritization of land applications or potential land applications in the
920 state according to the extent to which the land applications are in the public interest,
921 based on the factors adopted under Subsection (2)(e);
- 922 (g) prepare and submit a written report of land applications:
- 923 (i) to the Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Interim Committee and
924 the Federalism Commission;
- 925 (ii)(A) annually no later than August 31; and
926 (B) at other times, if and as requested by the committee or commission; and
927 (iii)(A) on the activities of the office under this section;
928 (B) on the land applications and potential land applications in the state;
929 (C) on the decisions of the secretary on land applications submitted by
930 government entities in the state; and
931 (D) the quantity of land acquired under the land applications;
- 932 (h) present a summary of information contained in the report described in Subsection (2)
933 (g):
- 934 (i) at a meeting of the Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Interim
935 Committee and at a meeting of the Federalism Commission;
- 936 (ii) annually no later than August 31; and
937 (iii) at other times, if and as requested by the committee or commission; and
- 938 (i) report to the Executive Appropriations Committee of the Legislature, as frequently as
939 the ~~[executive director]~~ advisor considers appropriate or as requested by the Executive
940 Appropriations Committee, on the need for legislative appropriations to provide
941 funds for the public purposes described in land applications.
- 942 (3) The office may:
- 943 (a) assist a government entity or the secretary in the filing and processing of a land
944 application; and
- 945 (b) enter into an agreement with the secretary related to the office assisting in processing
946 a land application.

947 Section 20. Section **63L-11-402** is amended to read:

948 **63L-11-402 (Effective 05/07/25). Membership -- Terms -- Chair -- Expenses.**

949 (1) The Resource Development Coordinating Committee consists of the following 26
950 members:

951 (a) the state science advisor;

952 (b) a representative from the Department of Agriculture and Food appointed by the
953 commissioner of the Department of Agriculture and Food;

954 (c) a representative from the Department of Cultural and Community Engagement
955 appointed by the executive director of the Department of Cultural and Community
956 Engagement;

957 (d) a representative from the Department of Environmental Quality appointed by the
958 executive director of the Department of Environmental Quality;

959 (e) a representative from the Department of Natural Resources appointed by the
960 executive director of the Department of Natural Resources;

961 (f) a representative from the Department of Transportation appointed by the executive
962 director of the Department of Transportation;

963 (g) a representative from the Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity appointed by
964 the director of the Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity;

965 (h) a representative from the Housing and Community Development Division appointed
966 by the director of the Housing and Community Development Division;

967 (i) a representative from the Utah Historical Society appointed by the director of the
968 Utah Historical Society;

969 (j) a representative from the Division of Air Quality appointed by the director of the
970 Division of Air Quality;

971 (k) a representative from the Division of Drinking Water appointed by the director of the
972 Division of Drinking Water;

973 (l) a representative from the Division of Environmental Response and Remediation
974 appointed by the director of the Division of Environmental Response and
975 Remediation;

976 (m) a representative from the Division of Waste Management and Radiation Control
977 appointed by the director of the Division of Waste Management and Radiation
978 Control;

979 (n) a representative from the Division of Water Quality appointed by the director of the
980 Division of Water Quality;

- 981 (o) a representative from the Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining appointed by the director
982 of the Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining;
- 983 (p) a representative from the Division of Parks appointed by the director of the Division
984 of Parks;
- 985 (q) a representative from the Division of Outdoor Recreation appointed by the director
986 of the Division of Outdoor Recreation;
- 987 (r) a representative from the Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands appointed by the
988 director of the Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands;
- 989 (s) a representative from the Utah Geological Survey appointed by the director of the
990 Utah Geological Survey;
- 991 (t) a representative from the Division of Water Resources appointed by the director of
992 the Division of Water Resources;
- 993 (u) a representative from the Division of Water Rights appointed by the director of the
994 Division of Water Rights;
- 995 (v) a representative from the Division of Wildlife Resources appointed by the director of
996 the Division of Wildlife Resources;
- 997 (w) a representative from the School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration
998 appointed by the director of the School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration;
- 999 (x) a representative from the Division of Facilities Construction and Management
1000 appointed by the director of the Division of Facilities Construction and Management;
- 1001 (y) a representative from the Division of Emergency Management appointed by the
1002 director of the Division of Emergency Management; and
- 1003 (z) a representative from the Division of Conservation, created under Section 4-46-401,
1004 appointed by the director of the Division of Conservation.
- 1005 (2)(a) As particular issues require, the coordinating committee may, by majority vote of
1006 the members present, appoint additional temporary members to serve as ex officio
1007 voting members.
- 1008 (b) Those ex officio members may discuss and vote on the issue or issues for which they
1009 were appointed.
- 1010 (3) A chair shall be selected by a vote of 14 committee members with the concurrence of
1011 the [~~executive director~~] advisor.
- 1012 (4) A member may not receive compensation or benefits for the member's service, but may
1013 receive per diem and travel expenses in accordance with:
- 1014 (a) Sections 63A-3-106 and 63A-3-107; and

1015 (b) rules made by the Division of Finance pursuant to Sections 63A-3-106 and
1016 63A-3-107.

1017 Section 21. Section **63L-11-403** is amended to read:

1018 **63L-11-403 (Effective 05/07/25). Advisor on public lands responsibilities.**

1019 The [~~executive director~~] advisor shall:

1020 (1) administer this part;

1021 (2) subject to the direction and approval of the governor, take necessary action to
1022 implement this part; and

1023 (3) inform political subdivision representatives, in advance, of all coordinating committee
1024 meetings.

1025 Section 22. Section **67-22-2** is amended to read:

1026 **67-22-2 (Effective 05/07/25). Compensation -- Other state officers.**

1027 (1) As used in this section:

1028 (a) "Appointed executive" means the:

1029 (i) commissioner of the Department of Agriculture and Food;

1030 (ii) commissioner of the Insurance Department;

1031 (iii) commissioner of the Labor Commission;

1032 (iv) director, Department of Alcoholic Beverage Services;

1033 (v) commissioner of the Department of Financial Institutions;

1034 (vi) executive director, Department of Commerce;

1035 (vii) executive director, Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice;

1036 (viii) adjutant general;

1037 (ix) executive director, Department of Cultural and Community Engagement;

1038 (x) executive director, Department of Corrections;

1039 (xi) commissioner, Department of Public Safety;

1040 (xii) executive director, Department of Natural Resources;

1041 (xiii) executive director, Governor's Office of Planning and Budget;

1042 (xiv) executive director, Department of Government Operations;

1043 (xv) executive director, Department of Environmental Quality;

1044 (xvi) executive director, Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity;

1045 (xvii) executive director, Department of Workforce Services;

1046 (xviii) executive director, Department of Health and Human Services, Nonphysician;

1047 (xix) executive director, Department of Transportation;

1048 (xx) executive director, Department of Veterans and Military Affairs;

- 1049 (xxi) [~~executive director~~] advisor, Public Lands Policy Coordinating Office, created in
1050 Section 63L-11-201;
- 1051 (xxii) Great Salt Lake commissioner, appointed under Section 73-32-201; and
1052 (xxiii) Utah water agent, appointed under Section 73-10g-602.
- 1053 (b) "Board or commission executive" means:
- 1054 (i) members, Board of Pardons and Parole;
- 1055 (ii) chair, State Tax Commission;
- 1056 (iii) commissioners, State Tax Commission;
- 1057 (iv) executive director, State Tax Commission;
- 1058 (v) chair, Public Service Commission; and
1059 (vi) commissioners, Public Service Commission.
- 1060 (c) "Deputy" means the person who acts as the appointed executive's second in
1061 command as determined by the Division of Human Resource Management.
- 1062 (2)(a) The director of the Division of Human Resource Management shall:
- 1063 (i) before October 31 of each year, recommend to the governor a compensation plan
1064 for the appointed executives and the board or commission executives; and
1065 (ii) base those recommendations on market salary studies conducted by the Division
1066 of Human Resource Management.
- 1067 (b)(i) The Division of Human Resource Management shall determine the salary range
1068 for the appointed executives by:
- 1069 (A) identifying the salary range assigned to the appointed executive's deputy;
- 1070 (B) designating the lowest minimum salary from those deputies' salary ranges as
1071 the minimum salary for the appointed executives' salary range; and
1072 (C) designating 105% of the highest maximum salary range from those deputies'
1073 salary ranges as the maximum salary for the appointed executives' salary range.
- 1074 (ii) If the deputy is a medical doctor, the Division of Human Resource Management
1075 may not consider that deputy's salary range in designating the salary range for
1076 appointed executives.
- 1077 (c)(i) Except as provided in Subsection (2)(c)(ii), in establishing the salary ranges for
1078 board or commission executives, the Division of Human Resource Management
1079 shall set the maximum salary in the salary range for each of those positions at
1080 90% of the salary for district judges as established in the annual appropriation act
1081 under Section 67-8-2.
- 1082 (ii) In establishing the salary ranges for an individual described in Subsection

1083 (1)(b)(ii) or (iii), the Division of Human Resource Management shall set the
1084 maximum salary in the salary range for each of those positions at 100% of the
1085 salary for district judges as established in the annual appropriation act under
1086 Section 67-8-2.

1087 (3)(a)(i) Except as provided in Subsection (3)(a)(ii) or Subsection (3)(d), the
1088 governor shall establish a specific salary for each appointed executive within the
1089 range established under Subsection (2)(b).

1090 (ii) If the executive director of the Department of Health and Human Services is a
1091 physician, the governor shall establish a salary within the highest physician salary
1092 range established by the Division of Human Resource Management.

1093 (iii) The governor may provide salary increases for appointed executives within the
1094 range established by Subsection (2)(b) and identified in Subsection (3)(a)(ii).

1095 (b) The governor shall apply the same overtime regulations applicable to other FLSA
1096 exempt positions.

1097 (c) The governor may develop standards and criteria for reviewing the appointed
1098 executives.

1099 (d) If under Section 73-10g-602 the governor appoints an individual who is serving in an
1100 appointed executive branch position to be the Utah water agent, the governor shall
1101 adjust the salary of the Utah water agent to account for salary received for the
1102 appointed executive branch position.

1103 (4) Salaries for other Schedule A employees, as defined in Section 63A-17-301, that are not
1104 provided for in this chapter, or in Title 67, Chapter 8, Utah Elected Official and Judicial
1105 Salary Act, shall be established as provided in Section 63A-17-301.

1106 (5)(a) The Legislature fixes benefits for the appointed executives and the board or
1107 commission executives as follows:

1108 (i) the option of participating in a state retirement system established by Title 49,
1109 Utah State Retirement and Insurance Benefit Act, or in a deferred compensation
1110 plan administered by the State Retirement Office in accordance with the Internal
1111 Revenue Code and its accompanying rules and regulations;

1112 (ii) health insurance;

1113 (iii) dental insurance;

1114 (iv) basic life insurance;

1115 (v) unemployment compensation;

1116 (vi) workers' compensation;

- 1117 (vii) required employer contribution to Social Security;
- 1118 (viii) long-term disability income insurance;
- 1119 (ix) the same additional state-paid life insurance available to other noncareer service
- 1120 employees;
- 1121 (x) the same severance pay available to other noncareer service employees;
- 1122 (xi) the same leave, holidays, and allowances granted to Schedule B state employees
- 1123 as follows:
- 1124 (A) sick leave;
- 1125 (B) converted sick leave if accrued prior to January 1, 2014;
- 1126 (C) educational allowances;
- 1127 (D) holidays; and
- 1128 (E) annual leave except that annual leave shall be accrued at the maximum rate
- 1129 provided to Schedule B state employees;
- 1130 (xii) the option to convert accumulated sick leave to cash or insurance benefits as
- 1131 provided by law or rule upon resignation or retirement according to the same
- 1132 criteria and procedures applied to Schedule B state employees;
- 1133 (xiii) the option to purchase additional life insurance at group insurance rates
- 1134 according to the same criteria and procedures applied to Schedule B state
- 1135 employees; and
- 1136 (xiv) professional memberships if being a member of the professional organization is
- 1137 a requirement of the position.
- 1138 (b) Each department shall pay the cost of additional state-paid life insurance for its
- 1139 executive director from its existing budget.
- 1140 (6) The Legislature fixes the following additional benefits:
- 1141 (a) for the executive director of the State Tax Commission a vehicle for official and
- 1142 personal use;
- 1143 (b) for the executive director of the Department of Transportation a vehicle for official
- 1144 and personal use;
- 1145 (c) for the executive director of the Department of Natural Resources a vehicle for
- 1146 commute and official use;
- 1147 (d) for the commissioner of Public Safety:
- 1148 (i) an accidental death insurance policy if POST certified; and
- 1149 (ii) a public safety vehicle for official and personal use;
- 1150 (e) for the executive director of the Department of Corrections:

- 1151 (i) an accidental death insurance policy if POST certified; and
 1152 (ii) a public safety vehicle for official and personal use;
 1153 (f) for the adjutant general a vehicle for official and personal use;
 1154 (g) for each member of the Board of Pardons and Parole a vehicle for commute and
 1155 official use; and
 1156 (h) for the executive director of the Department of Veterans and Military Affairs a
 1157 vehicle for commute and official use.

1158 Section 23. Section **79-1-103** is amended to read:

1159 **79-1-103 (Effective 05/07/25). Coordination council.**

- 1160 (1) There is created a coordination council that consists of:
 1161 (a) the executive director of the department;
 1162 (b) the executive director of the Department of Environmental Quality;
 1163 (c) the commissioner of the Department of Agriculture and Food;
 1164 (d) the ~~[director]~~ advisor of the Public Lands Policy Coordinating Office; and
 1165 (e) the director of the Office of Energy Development.
 1166 (2) The coordination council shall:
 1167 (a) rotate the position of chair among the members; and
 1168 (b) meet at least monthly.
 1169 (3) The coordination council shall discuss methods to enhance the coordination of
 1170 regulation and services of the five entities.

1171 Section 24. Section **79-2-204** is amended to read:

1172 **79-2-204 (Effective 05/07/25). Division directors -- Appointment -- Removal --**
 1173 **Jurisdiction of executive director.**

- 1174 (1)(a) The chief administrative officer of a division within the department is a director
 1175 appointed by the executive director with the concurrence of the board having policy
 1176 authority for the division.
 1177 (b) The director of a division may be removed from office by the executive director.
 1178 (c) ~~[The]~~ Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, the appointment and term of
 1179 office of:
 1180 (i) the state engineer~~[, notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in this~~
 1181 section,] shall be in accordance with Section 73-2-1~~[:]~~ ;
 1182 (ii) the director of the Office of Energy Development shall be in accordance with
 1183 Subsection 79-6-401(2); and
 1184 (iii) the advisor of the Public Lands Policy Coordinating Office created in Section

1185 63L-11-201 shall be in accordance with Subsection 63L-11-201(2).

1186 (2)(a) The executive director has administrative jurisdiction over a division director for
1187 the purpose of implementing department policy as established by the division's board.

1188 (b) The executive director may:

1189 (i) consolidate personnel and service functions in the divisions to effectuate
1190 efficiency and economy in the operations of the department;

1191 (ii) establish a departmental services division to perform service functions; and

1192 (iii) employ law enforcement officers within the department that have all of the
1193 powers of a natural resources officer and law enforcement officer, with the
1194 exception of the power to serve civil process.

1195 Section 25. Section **79-6-401** is amended to read:

1196 **79-6-401 (Effective 05/07/25). Office of Energy Development -- Creation --**
1197 **Director -- Purpose -- Rulemaking regarding confidential information -- Fees --**
1198 **Transition for employees.**

1199 (1) There is created an Office of Energy Development within the Department of Natural
1200 Resources to be administered by a director.

1201 (2)(a) The ~~[executive director]~~ governor shall appoint the director ~~[and the director shall~~
1202 ~~serve at the pleasure of the executive director]~~ with the advice and consent of the
1203 Senate.

1204 (b) The director shall:

1205 (i) have demonstrated the necessary administrative and professional ability through
1206 education and experience to efficiently and effectively manage the office's affairs[-] ;

1207 (ii) serve at the pleasure of the governor; and

1208 (iii) report to the executive director on matters concerning the office as the executive
1209 director may require.

1210 (3) The purposes of the office are to:

1211 (a) serve as the primary resource for advancing energy and mineral development in the
1212 state;

1213 (b) implement:

1214 (i) the state energy policy under Section 79-6-301; and

1215 (ii) the governor's energy and mineral development goals and objectives;

1216 (c) advance energy education, outreach, and research, including the creation of
1217 elementary, higher education, and technical college energy education programs;

1218 (d) promote energy and mineral development workforce initiatives;

- 1219 (e) support collaborative research initiatives targeted at Utah-specific energy and
1220 mineral development;
- 1221 (f) in coordination with the Department of Environmental Quality and other relevant
1222 state agencies:
- 1223 (i) develop effective policy strategies to advocate for and protect the state's interests
1224 relating to federal energy and environmental entities, programs, and regulations;
- 1225 (ii) participate in the federal environmental rulemaking process by:
- 1226 (A) advocating for positive reform of federal energy and environmental
1227 regulations and permitting;
- 1228 (B) coordinating with other states to develop joint advocacy strategies; and
1229 (C) conducting other government relations efforts; and
- 1230 (iii) direct the funding of legal efforts to combat federal overreach and unreasonable
1231 delays regarding energy and environmental permitting; and
- 1232 (g) fund the development of detailed and accurate forecasts of the state's long-term
1233 energy supply and demand, including a baseline projection of expected supply and
1234 demand and analysis of potential alternative scenarios.
- 1235 (4) By following the procedures and requirements of Title 63J, Chapter 5, Federal Funds
1236 Procedures Act, the office may:
- 1237 (a) seek federal grants or loans;
- 1238 (b) seek to participate in federal programs; and
- 1239 (c) in accordance with applicable federal program guidelines, administer federally
1240 funded state energy programs.
- 1241 (5) The office shall perform the duties required by Sections 11-42a-106, 59-5-102,
1242 59-7-614.7, 59-10-1029, Part 5, Alternative Energy Development Tax Credit Act, and
1243 Part 6, High Cost Infrastructure Development Tax Credit Act.
- 1244 (6)(a) For purposes of administering this section, the office may make rules, by
1245 following Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, to maintain as
1246 confidential, and not as a public record, information that the office receives from any
1247 source.
- 1248 (b) The office shall maintain information the office receives from any source at the level
1249 of confidentiality assigned by the source.
- 1250 (7) The office may charge application, filing, and processing fees in amounts determined by
1251 the office in accordance with Section 63J-1-504 as dedicated credits for performing
1252 office duties described in this part.

- 1253 (8)(a) An employee of the office on April 30, 2024, is an at-will employee.
- 1254 (b) For an employee described in Subsection (8)(a) who was employed by the office on
1255 April 30, 2024, the employee shall have the same salary and benefit options an
1256 employee had when the office was part of the office of the governor.
- 1257 (c) An employee of the office hired on or after May 1, 2024, shall receive compensation
1258 as provided in Title 63A, Chapter 17, Utah State Personnel Management Act.
- 1259 (9)(a) The office shall prepare a strategic energy plan to achieve the state's energy
1260 policy, including:
- 1261 (i) technological and infrastructure innovation needed to meet future energy demand
1262 including:
- 1263 (A) energy production technologies;
1264 (B) battery and storage technologies;
1265 (C) smart grid technologies;
1266 (D) energy efficiency technologies; and
1267 (E) any other developing energy technology, energy infrastructure planning, or
1268 investments that will assist the state in meeting energy demand;
- 1269 (ii) the state's efficient use and development of:
- 1270 (A) energy resources, including natural gas, coal, clean coal, hydrogen, oil, oil
1271 shale, and oil sands;
1272 (B) renewable energy resources, including geothermal, solar, hydrogen, wind,
1273 biomass, biofuel, and hydroelectric;
1274 (C) nuclear power; and
1275 (D) earth minerals;
- 1276 (iii) areas of energy-related academic research;
- 1277 (iv) specific areas of workforce development necessary for an evolving energy
1278 industry;
- 1279 (v) the development of partnerships with national laboratories; and
1280 (vi) a proposed state budget for economic development and investment.
- 1281 (b) In preparing the strategic energy plan, the office shall:
- 1282 (i) consult with stakeholders, including representatives from:
- 1283 (A) energy companies in the state;
1284 (B) private and public institutions of higher education within the state conducting
1285 energy-related research; and
1286 (C) other state agencies; and

- 1287 (ii) use modeling and industry standard data to:
- 1288 (A) define the energy services required by a growing economy;
- 1289 (B) calculate energy needs;
- 1290 (C) develop state strategy for energy transportation, including transmission lines,
- 1291 pipelines, and other infrastructure needs;
- 1292 (D) optimize investments to meet energy needs at the least cost and least risk
- 1293 while meeting the policy outlined in this section;
- 1294 (E) address state needs and investments through a prospective 30-year period,
- 1295 divided into five-year working plans; and
- 1296 (F) update the plan at least every two years.
- 1297 (c) The office shall report annually to the Public Utilities, Energy, and Technology
- 1298 Interim Committee on or before the October interim meeting describing:
- 1299 (i) progress towards creation and implementation of the strategic energy plan;
- 1300 (ii) the plan's compliance with the state energy policy; and
- 1301 (iii) a proposed budget for the office to continue development of the strategic energy
- 1302 plan.
- 1303 (10) The director shall:
- 1304 (a) annually review and propose updates to the state's energy policy, as contained in
- 1305 Section 79-6-301;
- 1306 (b) promote as the governor considers necessary:
- 1307 (i) the development of cost-effective energy resources both renewable and
- 1308 nonrenewable; and
- 1309 (ii) educational programs, including programs supporting conservation and energy
- 1310 efficiency measures;
- 1311 (c) coordinate across state agencies to assure consistency with state energy policy,
- 1312 including:
- 1313 (i) working with the State Energy Program to promote access to federal assistance for
- 1314 energy-related projects for state agencies and members of the public;
- 1315 (ii) working with the Division of Emergency Management to assist the governor in
- 1316 carrying out the governor's energy emergency powers under Title 53, Chapter 2a,
- 1317 Part 10, Energy Emergency Powers of the Governor Act;
- 1318 (iii) participating in the annual review of the energy emergency plan and the
- 1319 maintenance of the energy emergency plan and a current list of contact persons
- 1320 required by Section 53-2a-902; and

- 1321 (iv) identifying and proposing measures necessary to facilitate low-income
1322 consumers' access to energy services;
- 1323 (d) coordinate with the Division of Emergency Management ongoing activities designed
1324 to test an energy emergency plan to ensure coordination and information sharing
1325 among state agencies and political subdivisions in the state, public utilities and other
1326 energy suppliers, and other relevant public sector persons as required by Sections
1327 53-2a-902, 53-2a-1004, 53-2a-1008, and 53-2a-1010;
- 1328 (e) coordinate with requisite state agencies to study:
- 1329 (i) the creation of a centralized state repository for energy-related information;
- 1330 (ii) methods for streamlining state review and approval processes for energy-related
1331 projects; and
- 1332 (iii) the development of multistate energy transmission and transportation
1333 infrastructure;
- 1334 (f) coordinate energy-related regulatory processes within the state;
- 1335 (g) compile, and make available to the public, information about federal, state, and local
1336 approval requirements for energy-related projects;
- 1337 (h) act as the state's advocate before federal and local authorities for energy-related
1338 infrastructure projects or coordinate with the appropriate state agency; and
- 1339 (i) help promote the Division of Facilities Construction and Management's measures to
1340 improve energy efficiency in state buildings.
- 1341 (11) The director has standing to testify on behalf of the governor at the Public Service
1342 Commission created in Section 54-1-1.
- 1343 (12) The office shall include best practices in developing actionable goals and
1344 recommendations as part of preparing and updating every two years the strategic energy
1345 plan required under Subsection (9).
- 1346 (13) The office shall maintain and regularly update a public website that provides an
1347 accessible dashboard of relevant metrics and reports and makes available the data used
1348 to create the strategic energy plan.
- 1349 Section 26. Section **79-6-407** is amended to read:
- 1350 **79-6-407 (Effective 05/07/25). Decommissioned Asset Disposition Authority.**
- 1351 (1) As used in this section:
- 1352 (a) "Asset intended for decommissioning" means an electrical generation facility owned
1353 by a project entity that is intended to be removed from active service.
- 1354 (b) "Authority" means the Decommissioned Asset Disposition Authority created in this

- 1355 section.
- 1356 (c) "Fair market value" means the value of an electrical generation facility considering
1357 both the assets and liabilities of the facility, including the value of water rights
1358 necessary to operate the existing electrical generation facility at full capacity.
- 1359 (d) "Highest and best purchase offer" means the purchase offer for the asset intended for
1360 decommissioning that the authority determines to be in the overall best interest of the
1361 state, considering:
- 1362 (i) the purchase price offer amount;
- 1363 (ii) the potential purchaser's:
- 1364 (A) commitment to utilize the best available control technology;
- 1365 (B) intent to use state resources to the maximum extent feasible;
- 1366 (C) commitment to provide jobs and other economic benefits to the state;
- 1367 (D) intent to promote the interests of state residents and ratepayers; and
- 1368 (E) financial capability; and
- 1369 (iii) any other factors the authority considers relevant.
- 1370 (e) "Project entity" means the same as that term is defined in Section 11-13-103.
- 1371 (2) There is established within the office the Decommissioned Asset Disposition Authority.
- 1372 (3)(a) The authority shall be composed of:
- 1373 (i) the [executive-]director of the office;
- 1374 (ii) two members appointed by the governor;
- 1375 (iii) two members appointed by the president of the Senate; and
- 1376 (iv) two members appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives.
- 1377 (b) The office shall provide staff and support to the authority.
- 1378 (4) The authority shall:
- 1379 (a) provide recommendations to the governor and Legislature regarding the state
1380 exercising an option to purchase an asset intended for decommissioning;
- 1381 (b) if the state exercises an option to purchase the asset intended for decommissioning
1382 under Section 11-13-318:
- 1383 (i) enter into contracts and agreements related to the decommissioned asset;
- 1384 (ii) govern the disposition of assets intended for decommissioning as outlined in
1385 Subsection (6); and
- 1386 (iii) take any other action necessary for governance of a decommissioned asset
1387 purchased by the state;
- 1388 (c) contract with independent professionals that have expertise in emissions modeling,

- 1389 air quality impact assessments, regulatory compliance, and any other discipline
1390 necessary for the preparation and submission of a complete alternative air permit
1391 application, including:
- 1392 (i) conducting emissions modeling, air quality impact assessments, and gathering any
1393 other information necessary for inclusion in a complete alternative air permit
1394 application;
 - 1395 (ii) preparing the full application with all necessary information included, as would
1396 be required for an application submitted by the owner of the electrical generation
1397 facility; and
 - 1398 (iii) submitting the full permit application to the Division of Air Quality; and
- 1399 (d) submit a complete alternative air permit application to the division on or before
1400 December 31, 2024, unless the authority determines that it is not feasible to submit a
1401 complete application on or before that date.
- 1402 (5) If the authority determines under Subsection (4)(d) that it is not feasible to submit a
1403 complete application on or before December 31, 2024, the authority shall:
- 1404 (a) submit a written report to the Legislative Management Committee on or before
1405 December 15, 2024, explaining the reasons for the delay and providing an estimated
1406 time line for submitting the complete application; and
 - 1407 (b) submit the complete application to the division as soon as practicable after December
1408 31, 2024.
- 1409 (6) If the state exercises an option to purchase or otherwise take control of the asset
1410 intended for decommissioning under Section 11-13-318, the authority may, no sooner
1411 than July 2, 2025:
- 1412 (a) hold a public hearing to receive comment and evidence regarding:
 - 1413 (i) the fair market value of the asset, including the valuation study conducted by the
1414 authority under Section 79-6-408; and
 - 1415 (ii) the proposed disposition of the decommissioned asset;
 - 1416 (b) establish procedures and timelines for potential purchasers to submit binding
1417 purchase offers;
 - 1418 (c) evaluate all purchase offers to determine the highest and best purchase offer;
 - 1419 (d) approve the sale of the decommissioned asset to the purchaser that has submitted the
1420 highest and best purchase offer; and
 - 1421 (e) take any other action necessary to govern the disposition of the decommissioned
1422 asset in accordance with this section.

- 1423 (7) In accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, the
 1424 authority shall make rules that establish:
- 1425 (a) procedures and associated timelines for potential purchasers to submit binding
 1426 purchase offers for a decommissioned asset;
- 1427 (b) objective criteria and a process to evaluate all purchase offers submitted for a
 1428 decommissioned asset and determine which purchase offer is the highest and best
 1429 offer; and
- 1430 (c) a process for the authority to approve the sale of a decommissioned asset to the
 1431 purchaser that has submitted the highest and best purchase offer.

1432 Section 27. **Repealer.**

1433 This bill repeals:

1434 Section **23A-11-204, Limitation on compensating people to locate big game animals.**

1435 Section **58-79-101, Title.**

1436 Section **58-79-102, Definitions.**

1437 Section **58-79-103, Hunting guide and outfitter rules.**

1438 Section **58-79-301, Registration required.**

1439 Section **58-79-302, Qualifications for registration.**

1440 Section **58-79-303, Term of registration -- Expiration -- Renewal.**

1441 Section **58-79-304, Exemptions from registration.**

1442 Section **58-79-401, Grounds for denial of registration -- Disciplinary proceedings.**

1443 Section **58-79-501, Unlawful conduct.**

1444 Section **58-79-502, Unprofessional conduct.**

1445 Section **63A-16-507, Committee to award grants to counties for inventory and mapping**
 1446 **of R.S. 2477 rights-of-way -- Use of grants -- Request for proposals.**

1447 Section 28. **Effective Date.**

1448 (1) Except as provided in Subsection (2), this bill takes effect July 1, 2025.

1449 (2) The actions affecting the following sections take effect on May 7, 2025:

1450 (a) Section 63L-11-102 (Effective 05/07/25);

1451 (b) Section 63A-16-507;

1452 (c) Section 63C-4a-403 (Effective 05/07/25);

1453 (d) Section 79-6-401 (Effective 05/07/25);

1454 (e) Section 63L-11-403 (Effective 05/07/25);

1455 (f) Section 63L-11-201 (Effective 05/07/25);

1456 (g) Section 63L-11-202 (Effective 05/07/25);

- 1457 (h) Section 63L-7-104 (Effective 05/07/25);
- 1458 (i) Section 63L-11-402 (Effective 05/07/25);
- 1459 (j) Section 63L-7-109 (Effective 05/07/25);
- 1460 (k) Section 79-6-407 (Effective 05/07/25);
- 1461 (l) Section 79-1-103 (Effective 05/07/25);
- 1462 (m) Section 63L-11-305 (Effective 05/07/25);
- 1463 (n) Section 63L-7-105 (Effective 05/07/25);
- 1464 (o) Section 79-2-204 (Effective 05/07/25); and
- 1465 (p) Section 67-22-2 (Effective 05/07/25).

1466 **Section 29. Coordinating S.B. 149 with other 2025 General Session legislation.**

1467 The Legislature intends that, on May 7, 2025, all references to the term "executive
_1468 director" or "director" of the Public Lands Policy Coordinating Office change to "advisor" in
_1469 any new language added to the Utah Code by legislation that passes in the 2025 General
_1470 Session and becomes law.